

to ask, where are the jobs? In addition, the small businesses in my district are asking how they're supposed to pay the new mandates being placed on them under this bill.

The CMS analysis also shows that the recently passed health care bill will increase health care costs to 21 percent of the GDP by 2019. In addition to this increased spending in health care, the Congressional Budget Office has stated that under current spending levels, by 2020 American taxpayers will be paying \$2 billion a day in interest alone on the national debt. It also estimates that the debt will be \$20 trillion by that year.

Our Nation's economic future requires that this administration and Congress exercise serious fiscal constraint and stop excessive spending.

STANDING FOR HEALTH CARE

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was there when the President signed the health care bill into law. I saw him sign it in ink, but my heart was heavy because I knew that while he was signing in ink, it was written in prayers, the prayers of some 46 million people who did not have insurance. Signed in ink, written in prayers, but also written in tears, the tears of parents who have children with pre-existing conditions who could not get insurance for their children. Signed in ink, written in prayers, tears, as well as blood, because in this country 45,000 people die annually because they do not have insurance. That's one person every 12 minutes.

So I do not stand for and will not stand for reinstating tears, for reinstating those prayers, and I will not have the blood of the 45,000 on my hands. I stand with the bill.

REPEAL AND REPLACE HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. KLINE of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my constituents' concerns and frustrations over the health care bill that unfortunately is now law.

Last night, I hosted a telephone town hall meeting; thousands of my constituents participated. I invited them to discuss any issue that they chose; every single one spoke about this new health care law. And they had concerns. One man who called in said, I'm 72 years old, I'm retired, and I get my health insurance from my company. Are they still going to provide prescription drug coverage? That's a fine question.

The wife of a family practitioner said, My husband is 62, and his patients

are asking whether he will be able to stay around. And he tells them it will all depend on the government. It's sad to me that he doesn't even get to make his own choice about whether or not he retires.

Last week, the Obama administration's own experts confirmed what we've been saying for a year: this bill costs too much. Mr. Speaker, it's time to repeal this law and replace it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3253) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3253

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration", approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-136 (124 Stat. 6), is amended by striking "April 30, 2010" each place it appears and inserting "July 31, 2010".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on April 29, 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our economy is showing significant signs of improvement: consumer spending is climbing, manufacturers are adding jobs, and retail sales rose substantially for the first 3 months of this year. All of these are positive signs; however, if our recovery is going to produce the jobs that the American people need and deserve, small businesses will be central to the equation.

In every previous recession, small firms have served as job-creating catalysts. Not only do small firms add jobs faster than big companies, but many dislocated workers launch their own ventures during economic downturns. Those enterprises in turn often grow and create employment opportunities for the American people. For entrepreneurs to play this role, they need the right tools. The legislation before us will extend the Small Business Administration programs that help new ventures form and existing businesses grow.

Since the start of this Congress, the House has passed 16 bills to strengthen SBA initiatives. This included legislation to modernize the SBA's capital access programs so that small businesses can weather the credit crunch. However, before the SBA programs are fully updated, they must be extended. This bill ensures these initiatives keep operating. We cannot afford any of the SBA services to lapse just as our recovery is getting off the ground.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass S. 3253. The bill is a simple 3-month extension of all the Small Business Administration's core programs until July 31, 2010.

This bill is necessary because the temporary extension we approved in January is going to expire at the end of this week. Over the past 3 years, the House Small Business Committee has worked in a productive, bipartisan manner to author legislation reauthorizing and improving the Small Business Administration and its programs. I commend the chairwoman on her leadership and willingness to work in this fashion. By working together, we have reported and passed several bills that would modernize the SBA, allowing it to serve small business owners in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, our counterparts in the other body have not worked as diligently, and unless we pass this extension, many of the SBA programs that our small businesses rely on are going to expire on Friday.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. It is because of them that we have seen nominal gains in our economy recently. Still, the national unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent, with some States experiencing as much as 14 percent. If we are serious